

# ***Announcements***

- ◆ A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests, friends both old and new. We pray that God has blessed your time among us with His Word and Holy Spirit. We cordially invite you to join us this morning for coffee & donuts downstairs following the Divine Service; and we ask that you please sign the guest book at the back of the church.
  
- ◆ We welcome to Emmaus this morning the Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Kenya, the Reverend Walter Obare, along with his wife and their son, the Reverend Isaiah Obare. The Bishop and his wife have been visiting this country over the past week, and are on their way homeward this weekend. Their son, Isaiah, continues his studies at the seminary in Fort Wayne. Please take the opportunity, as you can, to greet the Obare's this morning.
  
- ◆ Following coffee & donuts, our Family Bible Class will be resuming our study of First Samuel. Parents and children, youth and adults are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in this class together.  
  
Care for the younger children (under four years of age) is provided in the nursery downstairs, so their parents and families are able to attend the class.
  
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch and Pastor Grobien will be attending the Indiana District Spring Pastors' Conference in Syracuse this Monday and Tuesday. Please keep them and the other pastors of our district in your prayers, as they travel to and fro, and as they meet to study the Word of God together.  
  
Please note that the Monday evening catechesis class, as well as Vespers and Bible Class, will not be held this week. The Children's Choir should be in touch with Mrs. Rhein to know her plans for rehearsal this week. Thanks!
  
- ◆ Remember that **PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE NEW PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY** is **taking place this week**, on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. If you are uncertain of your scheduled appointment to have your picture taken, or if you have any other questions, please contact Debbie Smith at 258-0639.
  
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch will be vested and available in the Emmaus sanctuary for Individual Confession and Absolution this Saturday (17 May) from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. This means of grace and forgiveness, instituted by Christ our dear Lord Himself, is freely offered to be freely received in repentant faith. Those who may have questions concerning this Christian practice are urged to speak with Pastor Stuckwisch, or with Pastor Grobien, about it.

Also, please note that Pastor Grobien will *not* be available for Confession and Absolution on the 30th of May, but on the following Friday, 6 June.

- ◆ One of our members, Curt Dare, is presently serving some prison time for some past offenses in the Valpo area. Please remember him in your prayers, that the Lord would use this time to strengthen and sustain Curt in repentant faith, and that he would not succumb to despair. Curt would welcome any correspondence from his brothers and sisters in Christ at Emmaus. You may write to him at: Curt Dare - C8, Porter County Jail, 2577 State Road 49, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
- ◆ The Used Book Sale fundraiser was a success this past month. Total sales before matching funds were around \$375.00. Your donations were greatly appreciated. We are considering setting this up again sometime, so if you or friends and relatives have more books to donate, please see Karin Horner. A special THANK YOU! to the fundraising committee and the Emmaus youth for their hard work in setting this up.
- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning have been provided by Walter Sanders to the glory of God, in memory of his brother Harold.
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 13 APRIL 2008:                   \$ 1,983.40
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 20 APRIL 2008:               \$ 1,090.55
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 27 APRIL 2008:               \$ 2,258.45
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 4 MAY 2008:                   \$ 1,742.25
- ◆ IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS MORNING: (ELDER) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Nathaniel Rhein & Erik Horner; (ACOLYTE) Martin Horner; (ORGANIST) Sandra Rhein; (CRUCIFER) Nicholai Stuckwisch; (GREETERS) Carrol McCarty & Pat Nering.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor           Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574
- ◆ Rev. Gifford Grobien, Assistant Pastor   Home Phone: (574) 231 – 9572

## ***On the Epistle to the Galatians***

*“A second kind of abrogation of the Law, an outward one, is that the political laws of Moses do not apply to us at all. Therefore we should not restore them to the courthouse or chain ourselves to them in some superstitious way, as some men who were ignorant of this liberty did several years ago. Nevertheless, although the Gospel does not subject us to the civil laws of Moses, it does not*

completely set us free from obedience to all political laws; but in this bodily life it subjects us to the laws of the state in which we live, and it commands everyone to obey his magistrate and his laws, 'not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience' (1 Peter 2:13-14; Rom. 13:5). Nor would it be a sin if the emperor used some of the civil laws of Moses; in fact, it would be a good idea if he did. Therefore the sophists are in error when they imagine that after Christ the civil laws of Moses are fatal to us.

"We are not bound by the ceremonies of Moses either, much less by those of the pope. But because this life in the body cannot be completely without ceremonies and rituals, since there must be some sort of discipline, the Gospel permits ordinances to be established in the church regarding festivals, prescribed times, prescribed places, etc., so that the people may know on what day, at what time, and in what place they should gather to hear the Word of God. It permits the appointment of certain lessons, just as in school, especially for the sake of children and uneducated people, so that they can be taught more easily. But it permits such things to be established with the purpose that all things in the church should be done decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40), not that those who observe such ordinances should merit the forgiveness of sins. Besides, they can be omitted without sinning, so long as this is done without offending the weak. Nor is it true that after Christ the ceremonies of Moses are fatal; otherwise Christians would sin when they observe the festivals of Easter and Pentecost, which the ancient church established on the basis of the example of the Law of Moses, although in a far different manner and for a different purpose.

"But here Paul is speaking principally about the abrogation of the Moral Law, and this should be considered carefully. He is arguing against the righteousness of the Law in order to establish the righteousness of faith, and he concludes: 'If grace alone or faith in Christ justifies, then the entire Law has been completely abrogated.' He supports this by the testimony of Isaiah, which invites the barren and desolate church to rejoice. She seems not to have any children of her own or any hope of having children. That is, she does not have disciples and does not receive any applause, because she preaches the Word of the cross about Christ the Crucified, in opposition to all the wisdom of the flesh. 'But, O barren one,' says the Prophet, 'do not let any of this bother or disturb you. Rather exult and rejoice, for the desolate has more children than she who has a husband. That is, the one who has a husband and many children will grow ill. But you, the barren and desolate one, will abound with children.'

"Paul calls the church barren because her children are not born by means of the Law or works or any human efforts or powers but in the Holy Spirit through the Word of faith. . . ."

**(From Dr. Martin Luther's Lectures on Galatians, A.D. 1535)**

# ***Walking with Our Savior this Week***

**TODAY**                    THE FEAST OF PENTECOST DAY  
Chorale Communion Service                    9:00 a.m.  
Coffee & Donuts Downstairs                    10:30 a.m.  
Family Bible Class                                    10:45 a.m.

**MON–TUES**                Indiana District Pastors’ Conference in Syracuse

**MONDAY**                Children’s Choir Rehearsal (?)                    6:15 p.m.

**TUESDAY**                **Photography for Pictorial Directory** (*as scheduled*)

**WEDNESDAY**            **Photography for Pictorial Directory** (*as scheduled*)

Confirmation Catechesis                    5:00 p.m.  
*Evening Prayer*                                    7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY**              *Pastor’s Family Day* (*but do call in cases of emergency*)

**SATURDAY**              Individual Confession & Absolution 5:00—7:00 p.m.

**NEXT SUNDAY**        THE FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Divine Service of Communion                    9:00 a.m.  
Coffee & Donuts Downstairs                    10:30 a.m.  
Family Bible Class                                    10:45 a.m.

*You may also want to keep in mind, in your observance of daily prayer at home:*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Trinity:  
Genesis 1:1—2:4; Acts 2:22–36; and Saint Matthew 28:16–20*